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BAUCUS COMMENTS ON NEW UNINSURED NUMBERS

*Baucus says new data shows need to improve Children's Health Insurance Program,
make further efforts to bring health care to Americans without coverage*

Washington, DC – Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) commented today on news that more than 89 million Americans under age 65 lived without health insurance at some point in 2006 or 2007. A new report by the health consumer group Families USA calculated that four out of five of the Americans who were uninsured during this period were in working families. Baucus is currently working to bring health care to more uninsured kids in America's working families with a bipartisan renewal of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

"It's simply unacceptable that for lack of basic health coverage, nearly 90 million Americans had to live in fear of illness and injury in the last two years. These new findings underscore the need for Congress to complete its work to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program to millions more low-income, uninsured children, and for the President to end the veto threat that would cause even more kids to become uninsured.

"It's also clear that America's leaders must initiate a real effort to make sure that no American goes without health coverage and care. This report from Families USA demonstrates that a discussion of real health reform cannot wait. I intend to help move Congress toward consensus on the health care questions that are literally life-and-death for so many of our citizens."

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